

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

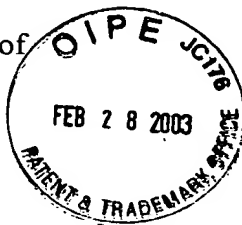
In re PATENT APPLICATION of

MURRAY, John C.

Appln. No.: 09/987,709

Filed: November 15, 2001

For: RULE ASSEMBLY WITH INCREASED BLADE STANDOUT



Atty. Dkt. No.: PW 283389

Group Art Unit: 2859

Examiner: Richard A. Smith

#9/A  
3/7/03  
Hayes

\* \* \* \* \*

February 28, 2003

AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 3, 2002, please amend the above  
identified application as follows:

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MAR - 5 2003  
1C 2800 MAIL ROOM

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. A retractable rule assembly comprising
- a housing assembly;
  - a reel rotatably mounted in said housing assembly;
  - an elongated blade formed of a ribbon of metal having one end connected to said reel constructed and arranged with respect to said housing assembly to extend from a position tangential to said reel outwardly through a spaced opening in said housing assembly;
  - a coil spring formed of a ribbon of metal having a construction and arrangement between said housing assembly and said reel to rotate said reel in said housing

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